

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4348

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, HU, IN

SUBJ: VISIT OF INDIAN PRESIDENT TO HUNGARY

1. INDIAN PRESIDENT, TAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED, PAID OFFICIAL VISIT TO HUNGARY SEPT 26 - 30 ACCOMPANIED BY SURENDA PAL SINGH, MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION, AND V. C. TRIVEDI, DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. DURING THEIR STAY THEY CARRIED OUT USUAL ROUND OF WREATH-LAYING, FACTORY AND STATE FARM VISITS AND VISITED LAKE BALATON. INDIA'S PRESIDENT DISCUSSED BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS WITH PRESIDENT LOSONCZI, PREMIER LAZAR AND SWP FIRST SECRETARY JANOS KADAR.

2. INDIAN AND HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS STRESSED THAT VISIT WAS NOT FOR PURPOSE OF SETTLING ANY OUTSTANDING ISSUES, BUT MERELY FOR "REAFFIRMATION OF MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP, AND EXPANSION OF MANY-SIDED RELATIONS." IN ARRIVAL STATEMENT, PRESIDENT AHMED DECLARED THAT ON BASIC QUESTIONS

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POSITIONS OF INDIA AND HUNGARY ARE IDENTICAL OR

SIMILAR." HE SAID THAT BOTH SIDES INTENDED TO DEVELOP CLOSER COOPERATION IN FIELDS OF INDUSTRY, TRADE, AND AGRICULTURE THROUGH GREATER UTILIZATION OF HUNGARIAN-INDIAN MIXED COMMISSION.

3. DURING PRESIDENT AHMED'S STAY, FOREIGN MINISTER PUJA DELIVERED SPEECH TO HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT IN WHICH HE PRAISED INDIRA GANDHI'S EMERGENCY MEASURES AS "RESOLUTE STEPS AGAINST REACTIONARY ATTEMPTS TO OVETHROW GOI" AND CLAIMED THAT HER ACTIONS HAD "BEEN A GOOD SERVICE TO INDIAN DOMESTIC SITUATION AS WELL AS TO INTERNATIONAL DETENTE."

4. IN TELEVISION INTERVIEW, PRESIDENT AHMED WAS ASKED SERIES OF "LOADED" QUESTIONS ABOUT "FOREIGN REACTIONARY ATTACKS AGAINST MRS. GANDHI". INDIAN PRESIDENT HANDLED MOST QUESTIONS IN DIPLOMATIC FASHION, WITH ONLY PASSING SWIPE AT CERTAIN "WESTERN ENEMIES OF INDIA", PARTICULARLY IN THE PRESS.

5. COMMENT: GOH PULLED OUT ALL STOPS FOR VISIT, PARTLY TO DEMONSTRATE ITS SUPPORT FOR RECENT SHIFTS IN MRS. GHANDI'S POLICIES, PARTLY TO CONTRAST ITS ATTITUDE (AS REFLECTED IN HANDLING OF VISIT) TO WESTERN CRITICISM OF HER POLICIES. HUNGARIAN-INDIAN COMMERCIAL RELATIONS ARE LIMITED TO SEMI-BARTER DEALS CALCULATED IN RUPEES. PROSPECT OF INCREASING THIS TRADE DOES NOT APPEAR GOOD. WARM HUNGARIAN RECEPTION OF AHMED REFLECTS EFFORTS OF WARSAW PACT STATES (AND OTHERS) TO EXPLOIT DELHI'S PRESENT DISENCHANTMENT WITH WESTERN CRITICISM OF INDIAN POLICIES TO DETRIMENT OF INDIA'S OVERALL RELATIONS WITH WEST.
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